

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
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## OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
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<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

**Remarks:**

Miriam: Background correspondence attached for your information.

Janet



FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER	
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
OGC	3/17/70
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OGC 70-0414

16 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT: Stone Jar from General Vang Pao

The Director has written S. Dillon Ripley, The Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, about the Vang Pao jar, and Mr. Ripley has replied with enthusiastic acceptance. He suggests that arrangements for its delivery be made with Dr. Clifford Evans, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, who apparently is alerted and will work out the details. Would you have the appropriate person contact Dr. Evans?

STAT

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

cc: D/Logistics  
FE Division



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley  
The Secretary  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dillon:

I have received your letter of 27 February in which you state that the Smithsonian Institution would like to have the great stone jar from Laos for the National Collections. I have also received the concurrence of the Chief of Protocol, Mr. Emil Mosbacher, Jr., to this suggested disposition of the jar. This was necessary because a Government official may only accept such a valuable gift on behalf of the United States whereupon its disposition falls within the authority of the Chief of Protocol. At your suggestion, we are arranging with Dr. Clifford Evans for the actual delivery of the jar.

You asked that I send a formal letter of presentation, giving all information possible about the history of the specimen. Except for the background paper on the jars enclosed with my previous letter, I can only reply that we do not know very much about them or this one in particular.

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[REDACTED] Rather, I would ask that the official records indicate the General presented the jar to the people of the United States in appreciation of their aid and assistance.

I hope the jar will be a valuable addition to your collection and that the General's true feeling of gratitude to the American people in making the gift can, in some way, be conveyed.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms  
Director

O-Addressee via OGC  
1-The Director  
1-DDCI  
1-ExDir-Compt  
1-ER  
1-DDS  
1-FE  
1-D/Logistics  
1-General Counsel

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THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

March 9, 1970


Mr. Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Houston:

This is in reply to your letter of March 6, informing me that Mr. Richard Helm, Director of Central Intelligence, desires to present to the Smithsonian Institution the great stone jar from the Laotian Plain of Jars, presented to him by the Meo Major General, Vang Pao, and which he accepted on behalf of all the American people.

I concur in the disposition of the jar as set forth in your letter. It would be appreciated, however, if you would inform the Smithsonian that if at any time in the future the Institution does not desire to retain this gift, it should be forwarded to General Services Administration for disposition. My office will inform General Services of this transaction.

Sincerely,

  
Emil Mosbacher, Jr.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

6 March 1970

The Honorable Emil Mosbacher, Jr.  
Chief of Protocol  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Mosbacher:

I am writing you on behalf of the Director of Central Intelligence concerning a gift of a great stone jar from the Laotian Plain of Jars, presented to him by the Meo Major General, Vang Pao. In accepting the jar, the Director indicated to General Vang Pao that he did so on behalf of all the American people and that he would like to present it to a museum so that all could appreciate it.

We have inquired at the Smithsonian and found that the jars are very rare outside of Laos, that the Institution does not have one and would very much like this one for display. A member of my office has discussed the Director's desire to have the jar repose in the Smithsonian Institution with a member of your staff, Mrs. Daisy Johnson. Mrs. Johnson advised us of the normal procedure when a rare gift is accepted on behalf of the U. S. Government but suggested that if we would communicate to you the Director's desire to present the jar to the Smithsonian this could probably be done.

Accordingly, we ask your permission to make this disposition of the jar. Because of its great weight (1,800 pounds crated), we can arrange to have it moved directly from our warehouse to the Smithsonian if you concur.

Please call me if there are any problems in connection with this proposal.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Lawrence R. Houston  
General Counsel

STAT

Enclosure

27 Feb 70 Ltr fr

Executive Registry

70-727/2



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D.C. 20560  
U.S.A.

February 27, 1970

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Richard Helms, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Dick:

Thank you very much for your February 12 letter and your very kind offer to donate a great stone jar from Laos to the National Collections. We are extremely eager to obtain the specimen that was presented to you by Major General Vang Pao of the Meo Tribe.

From the standpoint of our records, you may donate it in whatever manner you wish but we would appreciate a formal letter of presentation, giving all information possible about the history of the specimen, its provenience, and any other data of significance for the permanent catalog records. Arrangements for its delivery, since it is so heavy, can be made by having someone get in touch with Dr. Clifford Evans (381-5626), Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History; he will be glad to work out the necessary details.

I do appreciate your generosity in offering this to the Smithsonian Institution; it will greatly enhance our archeological collections from South Asia.

Sincerely yours, ,

S. Dillon Ripley  
Secretary

70-727/1

12 February 1970

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley  
The Secretary  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dillon:

The purpose of this letter is to offer the Smithsonian Institution one of the great stone jars from the Plain of Jars in Laos. The exemplar arrived in Washington this week as a gift to me from Major General Vang Pao, the political and military leader of the Meo Tribe. As you probably know, he commands the guerrilla forces which are at this moment fighting in the Plain of Jars against North Vietnamese troops attempting to retake the area.

It is my understanding that few of these jars have ever been removed from Laos. Attached is a paper describing them, although I assume that the Smithsonian knows far more about the background than we do. The jar in question weighs 1800 pounds.

Recognizing that the Smithsonian would doubtless prefer to have the Department of State indicated as the donor, I feel confident that we can have arrangements made to handle this, leaving the Agency out of the picture entirely.

Would you please be good enough to let me know if the Smithsonian would like to have the jar.

Cordially,

Richard Helms  
Director